

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 USSS-00 INRE-00 /045 W
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O 181956Z FEB 76 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9178
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0786

LIMDIS

LIMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

SAN JOSE FOR AMBASSADOR TODMAN

STATE FOR ARA/LA/CEN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), CS, NU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN
PRESIDENTS WITH SECRETARY

REF: SAN JOSE 0816, MANAGUA 0751

FROM AMBASSADOR THEBERGE

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA JUST TELEPHONED (12 NOON, FEB. 18) TO TELL
ME THAT FACIO HAD TOLD NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL THAT
CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER
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HAD BEEN CANCELED. FACIO ADDED THAT SOMOZA COULD COME IF HE

WISHED.

2. SOMOZA SAID THAT FACIO'S BACKHANDED INVITATION WAS CONSISTENT WITH COSTA RICA'S INEPT HANDLING OF SECRETARY'S MEETING AND MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO GO TO SAN JOSE. A HEAD OF STATE, HE SAID, CANNOT POSSIBLY MEET WITH THE SECRETARY AFTER THE PRESIDENTS MEETING IS PUBLICLY CANCELED.

3. PRESIDENT SOMOZA TOLD ME THAT HE WAS VERY EMBARRASSED BY THIS UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS WHICH HAD VITIATED THE MUTUAL GOOD WILL SUCH MEETINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO GENERATE. FONMIN MONTIEL WOULD ATTEND THE SAN JOSE MEETING IN HIS PLACE.

4. I ASSUME THAT FACIO WAS INSTRUCTED BY US TO DISCOURAGE SOMOZA'S VISIT TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY. IF NOT, HE HAS EFFECTIVELY DIS-INVITED SOMOZA ON HIS OWN.

5. TO AVOID DASHING RAISED EXPECTATIONS AND DISSIPATION OF GOOD WILL, I STRONGLY URGE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER CONSIDER GRACEFUL GESTURE OF ONE HOUR AIRPORT MEETING IN MANAGUA WITH SOMOZA EN ROUTE TO GUATEMALA. AS NOTED IN MANAGUA REFTEL, AIRPORT SECURITY WOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM, AND SOMOZA WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH SECRETARY. PLEASE ADVISE IF MANAGUA AIRPORT VISIT FEASIBLE.
THEBERGE

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